

Cumberland Place. New. Dec. 29th '50

Dear Nipper, I am afraid the journal will be in interest now we are quietly "settled down in lodgings;" for though I mean & expect to be very industrious, to study French & German, write letters prodigiously, read some learned books, & have innumerable small pieces of sewing & get all these will not be so interesting to transcribe for your edification & amusement; as visits to counting neighbours, or scenes in Dublin - "Howsoever," we will see! - The Hookers are very kind to us. Sir William has given Dr. Gray a key admitting him into the garden at all times, & when my spouse may be a little more active, I hope to enjoy it much. But I feel a little shy in getting about a strange place alone - Friday Ev. Lady Hooker sent us a duck, with a kind note. Saturday Morn. Miss Hooker called again; & after she was gone, came a bunch of flowers from her - And they asked us to dine there today, which we declined - Friday Ev. Dr. Gray had his turn for doing mischief. The mantel-piece of our little sitting-room is ^{or was} adorned with sundry small specimens of crockery & china, little basins, & pitchers, little jars & tatter ones, shells, &c. quite a toy shop; I had looked at it with some trinketing, knowing Dr. Gray's hasty movements; when, with a sudden ~~movement~~ ^{motion}, he made a great crash! Fortunately only a little basin was broken - But later in the evening over went the inkstand, on to the new table-cloth! & I sacrificed a sponge to wiping it up - The next Morn. I begged our landlady to remove the breakfasts, & we are not half so ornamented, but much safer - Dr. Gray complained of having cold Friday night, & last Ev. was much troubled with his throat, & pain in the old place in his side - I dread all colds for him now, for after such an accident they are often serious, leading towards pleurisy - I think one or two sneezes hurt him - But we took prudential measures for a cold at once, & to-day he has kept warm in front of the fire & not been out all day, & is much better - We have had a very quiet day therefore - I had a short walk this afternoon - I wish you could see our little, cozy, rooms, I am sure you would be amused! But our two old women take very good care of us, & things are so neat it is a pleasure -

Tuesday, Dec. 31st. 1850 -

We dined yesterday at the Hookers, & had a pleasant day - I was anxious to have Dr. Gray come home before dark on account of his cold - It seems heavier always at night, but is so much better that I think with care there will be nothing serious from it - I long to have him his old self again - But the slowest part of a recovery is after one gets about -

10 o'clock - In my great delight the American letters have just come. How I
was longing for them! - They are from Sue & Charles - And as Sue evidently
alludes to having written the Sunday before (this one is Sunday the 15th.) a letter
of hers is missing - I must write to Susan again, & see whether there is any
mistake about it there - But why, Charlie, when you & Sue write the
same week, don't you enclose your letters in the same cover - a 1/2 p.
takes two substantial sheets, & will save the one of you a quarter - of
course I speak only for the benefit of your pockets - Tell me, is my letter
do not come within the shilling stamp? - How I laughed & laughed
over poor little Pat's scrupulous honesty! I think mother wld't have
kept the quarter for his sake - I am really afraid it's possession in-
terfered with his enjoyment of the diorama! - Sure - Whether Charles
would be as much fascinated by Kitty if she were a boy? - But many,
many thanks, Charlie, for your nice accounts of her - In truth I
learn more from you than anyone else about her & her mother seems
to consider her a very wearisome subject - Much obliged for Tiffany's
kind recollection of me - I should like to see him again - As for turning
out Mr. Bowen because he opposes the Hungarians, (that is certainly
no reason, for every man has a right to his opinions) - But I think
history will prove him wrong, & the very concessions & admissions of
the Austrian government now, when they have been making ^{the last} preparations
for their wars, show that the Hungarians had the right - I think
Austrian edicts cannot be too much despised or cried out against -
As for Mrs. Bowen's nomination as Professor of History, I think it a very
fair question whether there might not have been a wiser & more pro-
visionary appointment - ^{but now that it is made, the alleged objections are always} - A man's pecuniary need of an office, is very
little reason for his choice. - What a queer state you seem to be in
in Boston, judging from the papers, letters, &c. Oh, how I wish Americans
could learn that "right makes might" & not party spirit, or dogmatism,
or violence, or ill-will - And that Expediency is the most short-
sighted, the weakest, the most miserable of policies; it wants patching
& shifting, & turning all the time - How I long to see someone ^{real}
up who can be cool, & wise, & just, & true, & straightforward for the
sight & true at the same time - How that one looks on at a
distance without feeling the excitement - influencing people, one so
long for something pure & noble - I am quite ashamed often to

to have our minds see American papers - And such strange ideas as
they have, & must needs have, of many things now going on! -
Today is the last day of the year! What an eventful year it has
been! Chequered with joy & sorrow; & mingling in its course many, many
changes - The last day of the year is always a sad day to me! -
And I suppose you are all at home with preparations!
Why didn't you tell me, Sue, some of the little things you were doing?
My home sadly on these anniversary days - They go by so un-
marked here - I did not see Ymas at all as I thought I should -
Dr. Fay was feeble & could not go out except to Clapham, & I saw less
Christmas lights than I expected - Except the butcher's shops filled
with meat, & occasionally a wollyough stuck in, ^{the great} & the porters
with their displays of Turkeys & the grocers with "goodies" rather
fresher & more abundant, & everything looked as usual - There does
not seem to be much Christmas feeling as with us, & they say
the games & peculiar sports are very little kept up - In truth I
must confess I was very much disappointed - But perhaps I ex-
pected too much - And in truth am quite out of the way here.
I suppose, if seeing what there may be to see - But I don't believe
they keep these ^{holidays} as much as we do at home - But Fanny Kemble made
the same complaint with us - Mrs. Wigham wrote me a very nice
can't account of merry doings at Exeter, Christmas eve. Mr. Hopton has
a great fancy for old customs as well as old furniture; & set up many
old English customs - Had all the school children to dine, & then
an enormous pile of, drawn, by the boys with great ceremony, into
the large fire-place of the diningroom, where it was lighted with
great ceremony, carols sung all the while - I wish I could have been
there! - I believe I regretfully forget to mention my only Christmas
boy - Mrs. Ward gave me a very pretty crocheted coat - Mr. Barnes wrote
me some day, that he had a rose & myrtle in his button hole, called
that morning in the open air! - And there was nothing to remind
them of winter, ^{of the day} but the goose-pie & holly - He was at his brother's
place at Limerick - There it is colder even than on the East coast
of Ireland -

I had a new bonnet come home the other evening - I wanted a hand some one, for after I am in London, I suppose I shall have calls to make; so I ordered an smart blk. velvet (^{trim} they call it here) & it is much worn in morning - It was to be very simple - And certainly there never was anything more English & ugly! I look as if I had on an Irish woman's night-cap, under a large, oval-mouthed coal scuttle! - I must send it back & see if it can't be improved - These dresses very much more here in morning than they do with us - They make things one can only wear in black, but quite daisy & ornamental - Blk. lace flowers, blk. embroideries, &c &c -

I am very glad the Cologne letter has been found! - How naughty Aunt Mary is not to write to me! - But a line, it will be 7 months we are gone when you get this - Almost half the time we are to be away!

New Year's Day -

Happy, happy, New Year to you all! I fancy now, for as it is 10 here it must be five with you, you are all gathered round the table at father's, after the children have finished their meeting; & I am sure you cannot wish for my presence more heartily than I should be with you! - I have had a pleasant day, but I do not know when I remembered the day so little - I received & gave the new year's wishes from Dr. Gray; & that is all, except that Lady Hooker drank them after dinner - for we dined there today - I went to church with her & Miss A. this morning at Northlake, (their parish), & we came back through Richmond, ~~quite~~ a town - They dropped me here, & I drove up there this afternoon, as they dined late today - He had a very pleasant dinner & came home about 9 - Dr. Gray seems better this evening - Yesterday E.J. in came a note from Dr. Harvey enclosing last week's letters, which it seems had been quietly lying on his table all the time he was in Limerick - So I had a double feast yesterday, & miss Mrs. Chas. presents they made - I must thank you, dear Lizzie, & the darling little Charlie - Sue certainly is a most faithful correspondent - How I laughed over Charlie's bean ideal of a residence - I do so Sue has sent to see if it's all in the child's fancy or not - This thinks, Lizzie, you really write like a mother, & thank you for your nice account of Kittie; & thank you much for teaching the little darling our name, I long to see her! - I am so pleased, dear Lizzie, you have had ear-ache again! do give most sympathizing & affectionate love for me to Aunt Bancroft & Lizzie. How very, very glad I was to hear you had grandfather's pea!

Friday - Jan. 2d.

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It is such a dark, dark day! This morning when I got up at 8 one could barely see to dress one's hair - And these dark days you really need candles to read or write by at 3'2! And they say 'tis much worse in London than here (in the country mine) - I am sure now I could not write the other side of our little room! - Charlie asks in his letter, "when did Dr. Harvey leave the country?" Why don't you remember before we sailed we had a letter from him announcing his arrival in Liverpool & wishing to know how I ^{should} ~~like~~ "Old Smoky," as he calls London - He left New York in the Atlantic on her first voyage. - So Boston is very gay this winter! I fancy you hear more music there & have a much lazier time than I do here, so near this great metropolis - But in Boston, I think from London seems very little; here you find it quite far enough to put you out of the way of all London sights, &c. - But don't fancy I complain, for I like the chance to study & work - Only don't wonder if I see nothing - I must answer this little burst, comparing the lower classes of England & Germany with slaves - First one sees nothing of it travelling or living in the country, & granting it true in individual cases, they are not so bound (but that instances are constantly occurring, where those of commanding talent & ability rise & do rise to high station & influence, the slave never can - then it is a sad truth that the lower classes are dreadfully degraded in many parts of Europe - But wise & good men around them & nearest them are trying & striving all the time to ameliorate their condition, to improve them to raise them. True it is a slow, sad work it can only be learnt, the best way, by slow, sad experience; there are many counteracting influences in the very frame work of society, & often one feels almost discouraged to see how much sin & wickedness & blindness & indifference there is in the world - But at home has the class which has the power yet begun to see or feel the evil in their midst, or to strive, wisely & patiently, gradually to remove it? - The very publishing these books, they are brought so strongly before the eyes of the upper classes in the journals & papers & reviews, ^{to} make them see & know, and I have been truly surprised to see in the London Times, (the Englishman's paper, how widely & daringly it often speaks on these subjects) - To be sure there are many people who won't learn, & it is the slowest & hardest task that society can offer, to remove the prejudices of a community - But will the South allow the matter to be presented as an evil? Will even many good & enlightened people at the North allow it to be talked & written about as an evil? And last & chiefest, where is there any excuse, any reason for ourselves or the world to shut our eyes to our sins, because society sins elsewhere?

He are looked upon as a great experiment, & many would also take a lesson from our example - And I can let the Nations cry out as they please against our sins, it should only do us good & help us on! Our enemies often tell us our faults more sincerely than our friends - And the better for the world if the Nations are all virtuous, & that their sins & errors be their reproach in the world - Man with the pride & the vanity which would have only our virtues seen -

Yesterday Turning Ship Broker kindly took me to town with her, as she had a carriage to go in to make some calls - I carried the trunk - & she stayed it to the milliner, in all its ugliness, who could not but acknowledge it needed attention - It is to come back like this - I bought a pair of far cuffs also - You & me with Louis, Aggie, & I sometimes wish I had my box as a victrine to cuffs - But these will keep me comfortable - And how I could have brought anything more in the room allotted me, I do not know - What do you think the charge was for engraving a card plate? Half a crown = .62! 2 card plates & 4 packs ²⁰⁰ cards for 15 shillings = 3.75! - I left Miss Brooker to make the calls while I went to Regent St. - It was a neat little hired Brougham & the Broker's footman accompanied to open the door &c. &c. Quite in style! He came back by Piccadilly & through Hyde Park by the Crystal Palace - Which is indeed a wonderful structure - And truly adds a good reason for coming to England next summer - You ask, Charlie, what I think of the Britannia bridges. After seeing them & this great glass structure for the Exhibition, I wonder man could have had the daring to plan such things, & then that they could have been accomplished! He is a wonderful bit of dust, this man! And London is a wonderful display of his powers - Great, great, great place! But, we are dear, little Boston to live in! - I got back just to see Mr. Ward walking away - Had a fruitless race after him, & the mortification of seeing him put the toll-gate retainer without turning round, & miserable I in my hurry, had left my purse behind! - so he was forced to take the rail back to Clapham without having seen us -

I have a real old-fashioned cold in my head, of four iddy power Kate Greenough would say - Dr. Gray seems better - Is in our Mrs's herbarium all day - I have had a letter from Mrs. Kintham, & they are going to Boulogne to see her brother-in-law who is still unable to get away, & hoping the change may do Mrs. K. good - She writes me that she hears from Lady Wyndes in good spirits & making a round of visits -

With dearest love to all, most affectionately Yours, Jane -
5 weeks today since Dr. J's fall!